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RWANDA: UPDATE ON SITUATION

6/6/95 *Rw*
Brief
K2

Question

RELEASED IN FULL

Q. Please provide an update on the fighting and cease-fire talks?

Answer

- o Intense fighting between RPF and government forces continues in Kigali and other parts of Rwanda. Heavy fighting and shelling have forced the temporary suspension of UN relief flights into Kigali's airport.
- o The RPF appears to have repulsed at least for now the government's recent counter-offensive near Gitarama, seat of the interim government. Intense fighting is now occurring for control of the road between Gitarama and Butare to the south.
- o The two sides met twice last week in Kigali, under UNAMIR auspices, to discuss a cease-fire. Talks were expected to resume again this week.

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RWANDA: U.S./INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Question

What are the U.S. and the international community doing about the tragedy in Rwanda?

Answer

- o The United States has exerted continuous diplomatic pressure on the warring parties to stop the killings, agree to an immediate cease-fire, and resume peace talks within the framework of the Arusha peace accord.
- o We successfully pushed for passage of a UN arms embargo on Rwanda and are supporting rapid expansion of the UN peacekeeping force to facilitate relief efforts and help protect threatened civilian populations. We are working closely with the UN to finalize planning on deployment, have agreed to lease the UN 50 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's), and are willing in principle to provide other equipment and logistical support.
- o We have contacted authorities on both sides and are working with the UN force commander to arrange for evacuation of endangered civilians to locations behind the battle lines.
- o We strongly supported the convening last month of a special session of the UN Human Rights Commission and the dispatch of a Special Rapporteur and human rights field officers.
- o The United States has already provided over \$54 million in humanitarian aid to the hundreds of thousands of refugees and over one million internally displaced persons. The U.S. has made dozens of airlifts to the region, carrying food, blankets, shelter, and other emergency supplies.

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RWANDA: STATUS OF AFRICAN TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS

Question

What is the status of recruitment of African troop contributors?

Answer

- o The UN has received offers of troops for Rwanda from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. Other countries have expressed interest but their offers are not firm.
- o Ghana has agreed to provide an additional 450-500 troops to bring the 310 Ghanaian troops already in Rwanda up to full battalion strength. These added Ghanaian troops will be deployed as soon as transport and equipment, especially APC's, are available.
- o Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe have each offered to provide a battalion of about 800 troops. Details regarding equipment, timing of deployment, and concept of operations for these troops are still being discussed with the UN.

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RWANDA: GENOCIDE

Question

Is genocide occurring in Rwanda?

Answer

- o It is clear that atrocities have occurred in Rwanda. The May 25 resolution of the special session of the UN Human Rights Commission stated that it is believed that acts of genocide may have occurred in Rwanda. The resolution, which we strongly supported, approved the appointment a Special Rapporteur to investigate this issue. He is to complete his report this month.

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RWANDA: LEGAL EFFECT OF GENOCIDE FINDING

Question

If it is determined that genocide is occurring in Rwanda, what are our international treaty obligations?

Answer

- o The U.S., Rwanda, and 100 other countries are parties to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Under this treaty, the country in which the genocide takes place is obligated to prosecute those guilty of genocide. Other states do not have an obligation to prosecute, but must extradite any alleged offenders that have fled to their territory.

- o States party to the Convention may also call upon competent UN organs, such as the Security Council, the General Assembly, or the UN Human Rights Commission, to take appropriate action to prevent or suppress acts of genocide. The various UN organs would not be competent to conduct criminal prosecutions themselves.

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